

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

PENRITH URBAN

DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the year ending December 31st, 1894,

BY

D. G. Pearce Thomson, M.B.E.M.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Penrith:

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GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1894, 157 deaths were recorded in the Urban District of Penrith, as against 190 recorded in the previous year.

GENERAL MORTALITY.

Of these deaths, 142 occurred in the Urban District itself, and 15 in the Workhouse, being 1 more in the Workhouse and 34 less in the District than in 1893.

ANNUAL MORTALITY.

The population during 1894 has been estimated at 9,240 persons, and with this number as a basis, the death rate per 1,000, is calculated at 15.33 for the Urban District excluding the deaths in the Workhouse. This compares very favourably with the last year's rate which was 19.68, and shows a diminution in the present year's rate of 4.35 per 1,000.

BIRTH-RATE.

The Births during the year numbered 251 of which 25 were illegitimate.

The Birth-rate is calculated as 27.16 per 1,000 as against 31.43 last year, being a diminution in the rate of 4.27 per 1,000.

The legitimate Birth-rate is 24.45 and the illegitimate rate 2.7 per 1,000.

I have tried to show the figures tabulated in the table along with those of the preceding 9 years.

Comparison of the Death-rates and Birth-rates from 1885-1894.											
	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	Average.
Population	9600	9695	9790	9885	9980	10075	8981	8838	8940	9240	
Total Number of Deaths	224	181	180	188	188	177	216	131	176	142	180
Annual Death-rate ...	23.3	18.6	18.38	19.1	18.8	17.5	21.6	15.1	19.68	15.33	18.73
Total Number of Births	318	293	246		209	233	251	227	281	251	256
Annual Birth-rate ...	33.2	30.2	25.12		29.9	28.1	27.9	25.68	31.43	27.16	26.74

It must be understood that no claim to perfect accuracy is put forward in the calculated figures.

The various causes of death in these 157 persons are as follows :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.

Diseases of the Heart	13
Simple Inflammatory Diseases of the Lungs	23
Phthisis	12
Accidents	3
Measles	4
Scarlet Fever	2
Influenza	1
Membranous Croup	1
Whooping Cough	1
All other causes	97

INFANT MORTALITY.

The “ Infant Mortality ” compared with the registered births is 13.14 per cent. of children under one year of age and the per centage of deaths, of children under one year, to the total number of deaths is 21. The number of deaths of children under one year of age is 33, and the causes of such deaths were as follows :—

I.—Premature Births and Congenital Debility	13								
II.—Diet Diseases	<table> <tr> <td>Marasmus</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Diarrhoea</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Convulsions</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gastro Enteritis</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	Marasmus	1	Diarrhoea	2	Convulsions	2	Gastro Enteritis	3
Marasmus	1								
Diarrhoea	2								
Convulsions	2								
Gastro Enteritis	3								
III.—Infectious Diseases	<table> <tr> <td>Whooping Cough</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Measles</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	Whooping Cough	1	Measles	1				
Whooping Cough	1								
Measles	1								
IV.—Pulmonary Diseases	2								
V.—Other causes	8								
	<hr/> 33								

It will be seen by the above table that the mortality has been greatly increased this year by the premature births and the diet diseases, no less than 21 deaths having been registered from these causes alone, if we add to these one death which occurred from exposure and want, and one which is registered as “ found dead ” it gives us 23 deaths which are to some extent preventable, especially those occurring from what I have called “ diet diseases.”

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

The annual mortality from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases I have calculated in two ways. First, I have taken all the deaths in which Zymotic Disease as certified as the Primary cause, and this gives a death-rate of 1.19 per 1,000, and a percentage of deaths of this class to total deaths of 7. Secondly, I have attributed the death to the cause given as a secondary cause, and which I believe to be the correct method. This gives an annual mortality of .54 per 1,000 and a percentage to total deaths of 3.18.

The number of deaths from Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases was 11, being 4 from Measles, 3 from Whooping Cough, 2 from Diarrhoea, and 2 from Scarlet Fever. If we exclude the deaths from Sequelæ of Measles and Whooping Cough as mentioned above, it reduces the deaths from Zymotic Diseases to 5.

ZYMOTIC SICKNESS.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever which prevailed so extensively last year, has hung over us this year, breaking out spasmodically during the early part of 1894. The cases have however been mild in character, and only two deaths have occurred. During the year 31 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, the cases being reported in the various months as follows:—January, 9; February, 4; March, 1; April, 4; May, 2; June, 4; July, 0; August, 1; September, 1; October, 2; November 1; December, 2. Many of these cases were doubtless due to infection from cases occurring late in the previous year, but from June all the cases could be traced to foreign infection, and not to infection from any want of care or disinfection of the previous cases in town. I am now able to report that the town is free from Scarlet Fever.

Four of the above-mentioned cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER:—Two cases of Enteric Fever were reported during the year. In both cases local insanitary conditions existed, which were removed and the drains in connection with the houses efficiently trapped, disconnected and ventilated.

ERYSIPELAS:—Six cases of this disease were reported, two of the six were in the Workhouse, being found to be suffering from Erysipelas when admitted. The other cases call for no comment.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP :—One case of this disease occurred in a child of two years of age in a badly ventilated house, and the child died in 5 days.

DIPHTHERIA :—Two cases were reported both of a mild character. These cases were due in all probability to emanations from sewage-sodden subsoil which had been turned up in relaying drains. Both cases recovered, and no spread of the disease took place.

There have also been mild outbreaks of **MEASLES** and **WHOOPIING COUGH** during the year, but these have not been extensive. Measles was brought from a neighbouring town and was the cause of 4 deaths, while Whooping Cough caused 3 deaths.

DIARRHŒA :—This disease was responsible for 2 deaths, but it never assumed anything of an epidemic form.

Comparing the state of the town this year with that of last year, I have to report that a great improvement is manifest with regard to Zymotic disease, and also that the town is at present free from disease of such a nature.

CHOLERA :—In accordance with a recommendation sent down by the Local Government Board with regard to the disease known as “Choleraic Diarrhœa” being added to the notifiable diseases, the Urban Sanitary Authority resolved to add this disease to the list of notifiable diseases for three months, and issued circulars to all and sundry, conveying the required information :

(Copy of Circular appended).

No cases of such disease were reported to me.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of Penrith is the same as in my last report, no change having taken place.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

A new Infectious Diseases Hospital has been built according to the Local Government Board Model, but will require certain alterations and additions. These are to be carried out without delay.

SEWERAGE.

Sewerage :—With regard to the sewerage of Penrith, many improvements have been carried out during the past year. The main portion of a large and increasing part of Penrith called “Castletown,” which contains a great number of the working population, has had the old sewers removed “in toto” and a system of larger sewerage pipes laid down, the outfall into the main sewers of the town improved, and a new surface water drainage

system laid down. This formed the subject of an enquiry by a Local Government Board Inspector (Col. Luard) in the early part of 1894. This has greatly improved Castletown, and has removed the source of many complaints as to flooding of cellars, &c. A portion of the main sewer leading to the sewerage outfall has also been improved and widened.

SANITARY.

A large number of inspections have been made during the year and many insanitary conditions dealt with. I have enumerated below those conditions which have been noted, reported, and satisfactorily dealt with. As well as these mentioned a number have been brought to the notice of your Council, which are still undone, but most of them are being attended to, and are in process of removal or being put in a proper condition.

All defective middensteads mentioned below have been converted into properly built and concreted middensteads, with flagged or concreted floors and drained into the sewer. All defective sinkstone pipes have been made to discharge on to a gully in the open air. Defective drains have been trapped, disconnected by Buchan traps and ventilating shafts put in. Piggeries have been removed or properly constructed and drained at a proper distance from a dwelling. All water supplies to W.C.'s have been arranged with regard to special cisterns and ball taps for the W.C. alone. Privies where possible have been removed and W.C.'s substituted. Altogether, no less than 209 insanitary conditions have been satisfactorily removed during the past year. Many still remain to be dealt with, but the sanitary condition of the town has been very much improved during the past year.

I specify below the particulars of conditions mentioned:—

Dirty and Imperfectly Ventilated Houses and Premises	5
Defective Water Pipes	14
Defective Drains	24
Defective Water Closets	18
Trough Closets removed and W.C.'s substituted	3
Defective Middensteads	14
Uncovered Ashpits	5
Privies converted into W.C.'s	19
Privies enlarged and Ashpits improved	4
Unsanitary Yards	8
Sinkstone Pipes directly connected with Sewer	14
Ashpits removed	6
W.C.'s with direct water supply, no cisterns	3

Accumulations of Rubbish removed	7
Drains disconnected and ventilated	10
Cesspool cleaned out, etc.....	1
Defective W.C. Cisterns.....	49
Piggeries.....	2
House without Privy accomodation	1
Slaughtering in Unlicensed Premises	1
Stables without Drains.....	1
	<hr/>
	209

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Lodging houses have been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

All Workshops in the town have been inspected.

The Bakehouses have also been inspected.

The tables required by the Local Government Board are appended, and also a Weekly Mortality Chart.

D. G. PEARCE THOMSON, M.B.C.M.,

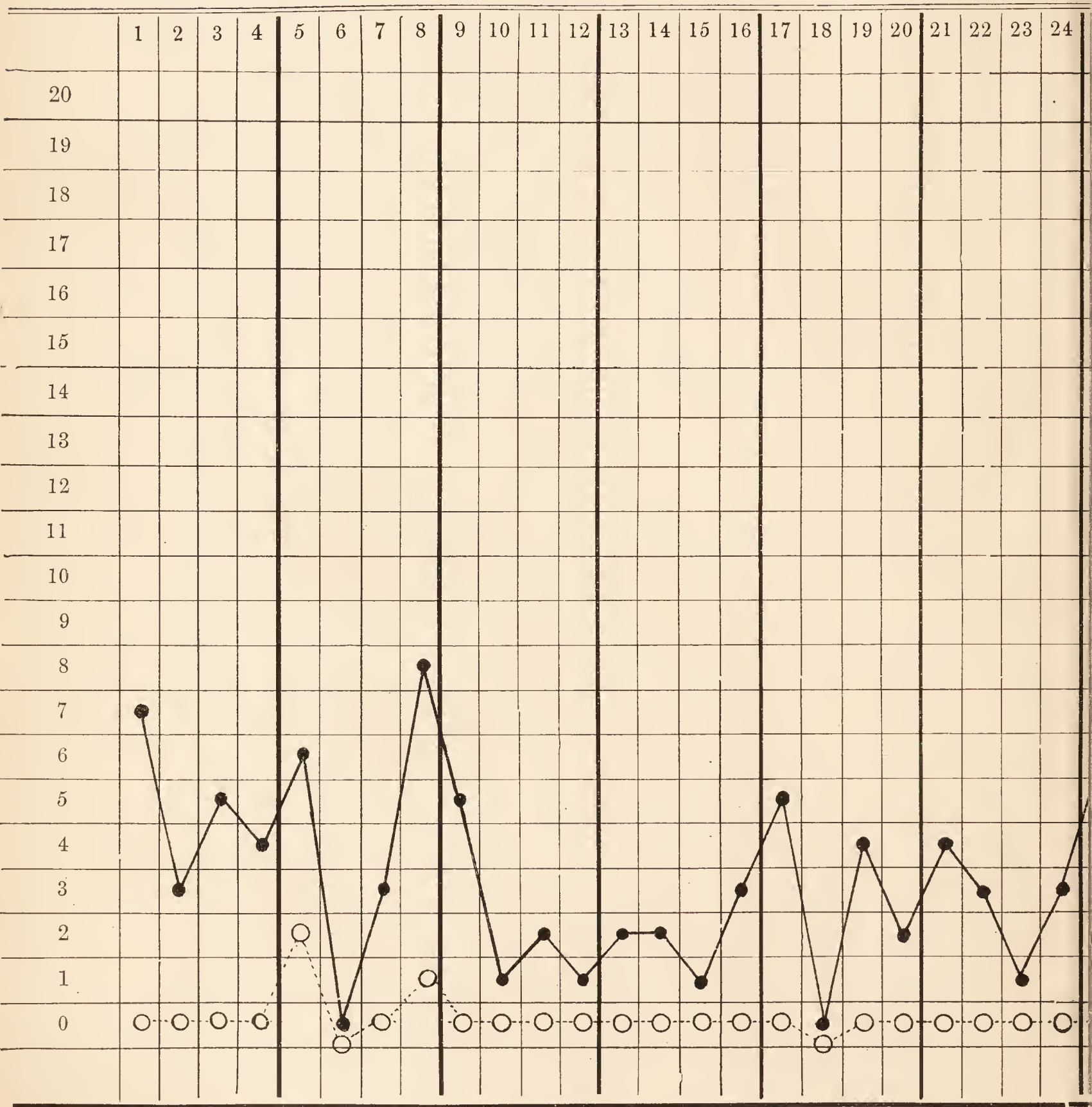
Feb. 25th, 1895.

M.O.H.

MORTALITY CHART.

Shewing the Deaths from all causes, and from the seven p

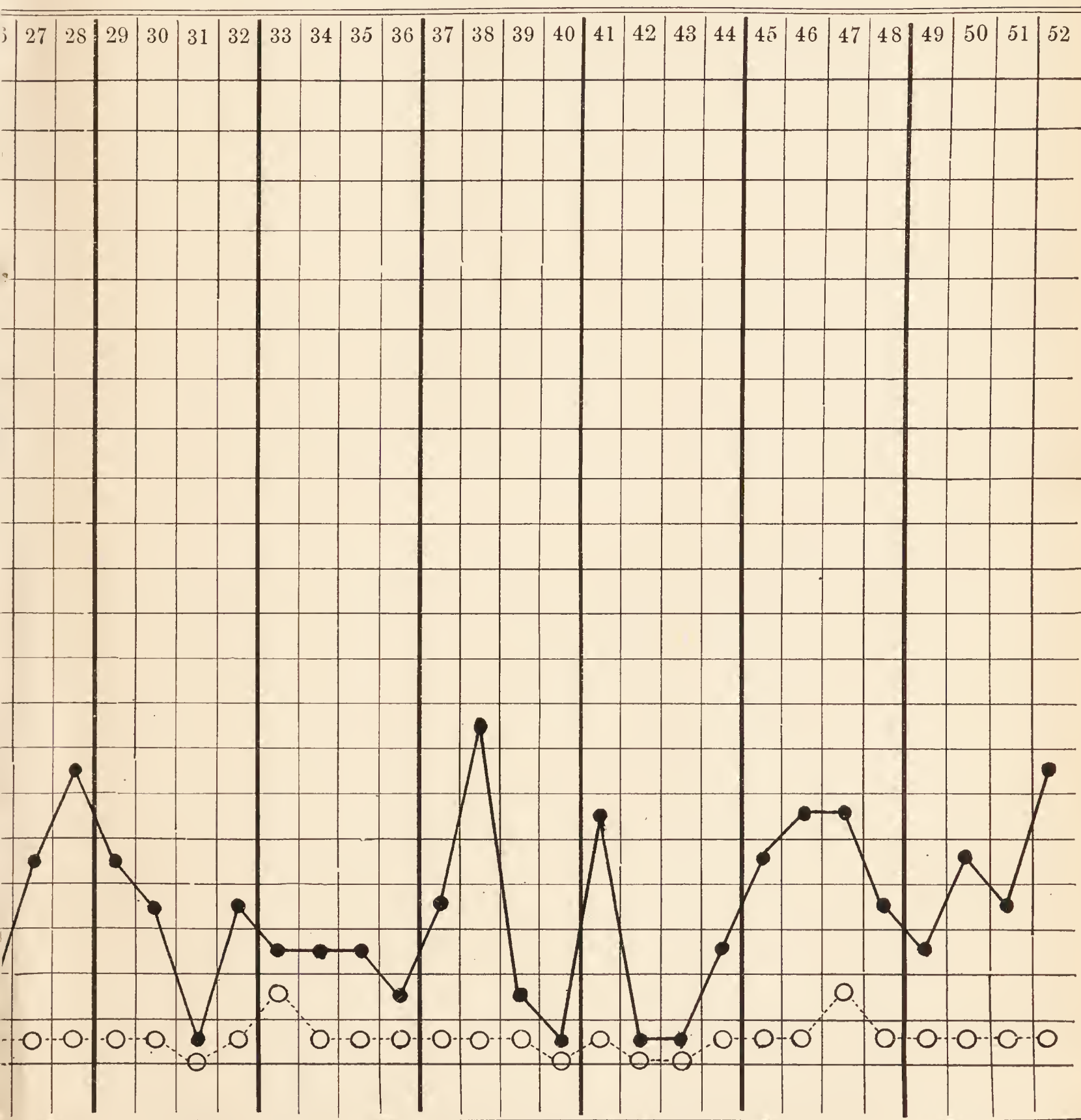
The upper line describes the weekly course of the general death-r
the column represent the number of weeks, the figures at the side the



FOR THE YEAR, 1894.

al zymotic or infectious diseases in each week of the year.

the dotted line, of the zymotic death-rate. The figures at the top of
ber of deaths.



PENRITH LOCAL BOARD.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

CHOLERAIC DIARRHŒA.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a Meeting of the Penrith Local Board, duly convened and held on Friday, the 3rd day of August, 1894, a Resolution was passed as follows, viz:—

“That having in view the danger of a visitation of Cholera in this country, the Penrith Local Board hereby Order that during the months of August, September, and October, in the present year, Choleraic Diarrhœa shall be added in the list of Diseases notifiable within their District under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889. Notification under this Order to be limited to cases of Choleraic Diarrhœa occurring in persons over two years of age.”

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that this Order will come into operation on Monday, the 13th day of August, 1894, and will continue in operation until the 31st day of October, 1894.

NOTIFICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO

Dr. D. G. PEARCE THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health, Bishopyards.

By Order,

GEORGE WAINWRIGHT, Clerk.

PUBLIC OFFICES, PENRITH,

3rd August, 1894.

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1894,

IN THE

PENRITH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

(A). CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statis- tics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B).	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.									
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)		Scarlatina.	Membran'us Group.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Urban Sanitary District ..	142	33	14	7	6	33	49	Under 5	1	1	1	1	9	12	13	2	35	47
Workhouse ...	15					9	6	Under 5					3	3			9	15
TOTALS	157	33	14	7	6	42	55	Under 5	1	1	1	1	12	15	13	2	35	47
								5 upwds.									65	110

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the

PENRITH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,

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CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statis- tics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the know- ledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.			1	2	3	4	5	1		
												(b)
(a)												
Urban Sanitary District ..	8981	9240	251	Under 5 5 upwds.	Scarlattina. 31	Diphtheria. 2	Membranous Croup. 1	Enteric or Typhoid Fever 2	Erysipelas. 6	Scarlattina. 4		
TOTALS				Under 5 5 upwds.	Scarlattina. 31	2	1	2	6	4		

TABLE C.

Analysis of Births and Mortality for the year 1894, showing the Births, Deaths, and Rate of Mortality in the year 1894.

Births.	Deaths.	Birth-rate.	ANNUAL RATE OF MORTALITY PER 1,000 FROM.				
			All Causes	Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Phthisis.	Lungs.	Heart.
251	157	27.16	15.33	.54	1.29.	2.48	1.4

Percentage of Deaths under one year to Births registered.	PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS.					
	Of infants under 1 year.	Of persons over 65 years.	From 7 Principal Zymotic Diseases.	From Phthisis.	From Lungs.	From Heart.
	21	34.39	3.18.	7.64	14.64	8.28
13.14						

TABLE D.

Shewing the Rate of Mortality in each Quarter of 1895.

Quarter ending	Death-rate per 1,000 from all causes.	PERCENTAGE TO TOTAL DEATHS OF DEATHS.		
		Of infants under 1 year.	Of persons over 65 years.	From 7 Principal Zymotic Diseases.
March 31st ..	20.76	17.8	61.12	5.08
June 30th ..	16	30.56	17.8	2.54
September 30th ..	15.56	17.8	30.56	2.54
December 31st ..	15.56	17.8	28.20	2.54

TABLE E.

Shewing the Births, Legitimate and Illegitimate in each quarter of the year 1894.

Quarter ending	Total Births.	LEGITIMATE.			ILLEGITIMATE.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
March 31st ..	57	27	22	49	1	7	8
June 30th ..	66	32	26	58	4	4	8
September 30th ..	72	45	21	66	1	5	6
December 31st ..	56	26	27	53	3	0	3
TOTALS	251	130	96	226	9	16	25

